WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A data management system for patient data, comprising:

2   a first component having a functionality code segment and a

3   user interface code segment;

4   a second component having a functionality code segment

5   and a user interface code segment; and

6   a container application having a first user interface layer in

7   communication with the first component and a second user interface layer

8   in communication with the second component, wherein the first and

9   second user interface layers are configured to communicate patient data

10   between the functionality code segments of the first and second

11   components, respectively, and a user interface.

1   2.   The data management system of claim 1, wherein the

2   functionality code segment of the first component is configured to store

3   and retrieve patient image data.

1   3.   The data management system of claim 2, wherein the

2   functionality code segment of the second component is configured to

3   store and retrieve patient text data.

1   4.   The data management system of claim 1, wherein the first

2   and second user interface layers are configured to format the patient data

3   from the first and second functionality code segments with the same look

4   and feel.

1   5.   The data management system of claim 1, the container

2   further comprising a first service layer in communication with the first

3   component and a second service layer in communication with the second

4   component, wherein the first and second service layers are configured to

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5 communicate data between the functionality code segments of the first

6 and second components and a service.

1 6. The data management system of claim 5, wherein the

2 service includes a telecommunication service.

7. A data management system for patient data, comprising:

      a first application for retrieving patient image data from a database;

      a second application for processing patient text data; and

      a data manager in communication with the first and second applications, wherein the data manager includes a user interface code segment in communication with the first and second applications for receiving the patient image data and patient text data for generating display signals based on the patient image data and the patient text data according to a predetermined display format.

8. The data management system of claim 7, further comprising a display unit configured to receive the display signals and provide a display based on the display signals.

9. The data management system of claim 7, wherein the predetermined display format has a look and feel for both the patient image data and the patient text data.

10. The data management system of claim 7, further comprising a third application configured to process data, the user interface code segment in communication with the third application and configured to receive the data and to generate display signals based on the data.

11. The data management system of claim 10, wherein the third application is in communication with the internet.

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1　　　　12.　　A data management system for patient data, comprising:

2　　　　　　　a first component configured to retrieve patient image data;

3　　　　　　　a second component having a second functionality;

4　　　　　　　a first service layer configured to communicate with the first

5　component;

6　　　　　　　a second service layer configured to communicate with the

7　second component; and

8　　　　　　　a service configured to communicate with the first

9　component and the second component via the first and second service

10　layers, respectively, wherein the service communicates with the first and

11　second components via a predetermined protocol.

1　　　　13.　　The data management system of claim 12, wherein the

2　second functionality is configured to communicate with the internet.

1　　　　14.　　The data management system of claim 12, wherein the

2　second functionality is configured to process patient text data.

1　　　　15.　　The data management system of claim 12, wherein the

2　service includes a telecommunication service.

1　　　　16.　　The data management system of claim 12, further

2　comprising a container application having a first user interface layer in

3　communication with the first component and a second user interface layer

4　in communication with the second component, wherein the first and

5　second user interface layers are configured to communicate patient data

6　between the first and second components, respectively, and a user

7　interface.

1　　　　17.　　The data management system of claim 16, wherein the

2　container is configured to provide the patient data to the user interface

3　with a predetermined look and feel.

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1   18.   The data management system of claim 12, wherein the

2   predetermined protocol includes componentware.

1   19.   A data management system for patient data, comprising:

2   first means for processing patient image data;

3   second means for processing patient text data; and

4   third means for communicating between the first and second

5 means, for receiving patient image data and patient text data from the

6 first and second means, and for displaying the patient image data and

7 patient text data according to a predetermined display format.

1   20.   The data management system of claim 19, wherein the first

2 means includes a PACS component.

1   21.   The data management system of claim 19, wherein the first

2 means includes a user interface code segment, and the third means

3 includes a user interface layer in communication with the user interface

4 code segment.

1   22.   A method of displaying patient data from a plurality of

2   applications, comprising:

3   receiving patient image data;

4   receiving patient text data;

5   configuring both the patient image data and patient text data

6   according to a predetermined display format; and

7   displaying the configured patient image data and patient text

8   data.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving the

2   patient image data from a PACS database.

1   24.   The method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined display

2   format includes a display format for an icon.

1   25.   The method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined display

2   format includes a display format for a menu.

1   26.   The method of claim 22, further comprising communicating

2   the patient image data through a user interface layer.

1   27.   The method of claim 22, further comprising providing patient

2   image data to one of the internet and an intranet.